



ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

October 2017 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

It is the end of the first half term of the school academic year and the half term holiday has certainly arrived quickly! I would like to thank you all for your support this term and hope you and your children enjoy the half term holidays.

School Update

Staffing

Mrs Law begins her maternity leave on 6 November 2017. She will be missed and we would like to thank her for her hard work and commitment to our school. We wish Mrs Law and her family all the best as she prepares for her new arrival. Mrs Atkinson, the current part-time Reception teacher will become full time, covering Mrs Law maternity leave.

Good news

The unpublished 2017 data for Year 2 has been released and we are delighted to report that results have risen this year. Please see table below – EXS = expected level of achievement and GDS = having greater depth. The staff and governors started to implement changes in January to address the downward decline and already we can see the positive impact. Well done everyone – children, staff, parents and governors.

	Reading				Writing				Mathematics			
	2016 %		2017 %		2016 %		2017 %		2016 %		2017 %	
	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS	EXS	GDS
ARFS	87.1	25.8	90	40	77.4	9.7	76.7	20	80.6	9.7	76.7	20
National	74	24	76	25	65	13	68	16	73	18	75	21
Newcastle	75	24	74	23	67	14	68	15	73	17	75	20

We will continue to work to ensure that the upward trend strengthens over the coming year.

School Meals



School meals continue to be of a very high standard. Two themed “Deadly Dinner” days are coming up on Tuesday 31st October for Halloween and on Friday 3rd November for Bonfire Night. I would encourage as many children as possible to have a school meal on those days. A ParentMail will be sent to you with the menu for the 31st October (first day back after half term). Mrs Battista would be grateful to know in advance if your child would like to have a school meal on that day. Class teachers will

have a dinner list at drop off and pick up times tomorrow. Mrs McCloud will send a reminder out on Monday 30th October (teacher training day) and your child can still request a meal on the Tuesday if undecided before then.

Sports

Some children from Key Stage 2 took part in a Cross Country running event at Grange First School as part of the Gosforth Schools Trust’s sports initiative, “Gosforth Gets Going”. Our children won 7 of 12 medals available so a great effort and result!

Visits and Visitors

The children thoroughly enjoyed Mary of The People’s Kitchen leading one of our worships this half term. They listened carefully and considered her message about people who are homeless in the North East

when they brought their harvest gifts. Thank you for your donations and to those who were able to join us for our Harvest Festival.

Key Stage 2 welcomed a theatre company, Gibber, into school earlier this week and they watched a pantomime performance called *"Super Splash Heroes"* funded by Northumbrian Water. It was devised to compliment a number of National Curriculum areas and educate about water conservation which tied in well with the children's topic this term, "Go Green".

The children have enjoyed the visits this month by Anna, our Forest School leader. Nursery and Reception collected leaves, read Leaf Man and made their own Leaf Man or Leaf Caterpillar. Key Stage 1 learnt about how fire spreads using leaves and I enjoyed cooking apples with cinnamon and brown sugar on the fire pit with Year 2. The older children learnt about seed dispersal – lots of science discoveries!

Clubs

The new Chinese club is becoming popular and interest is growing. This initiative is led by Gosforth Academy and offered to all schools in the Gosforth Schools Trust. There are still spaces, so if your child would like to join, please see Mrs McCloud.

School Council

I was delighted to announce the members of the School Council this week. What makes a good school councillor was discussed by all classes and voting commenced with the following results:

- Chair – Grace Steward Vice-Chair – Alfie Kennerley
- Year 1 – Evie Sutton and Fraser Collins
- Year 2 – Natalie Watson and Henry Stuart
- Year 3 – Tahseen Ali and Will Laws
- Year 4 – Ethan Lowe and Izzy Tompkins

We do hope that they enjoy the roles and look forward to seeing their work in the coming year.

Ethos Committee

The governing body decided to establish an Ethos Committee with Reverend Andrew Shipton, Mrs Scott-Harden, myself and Mrs Harrison as R.E co-ordinator. At times, children may be invited to join the Committee when relevant. This Committee will look at the SIAMS church school inspection recommendations, our Christian ethos as a Church school, RE and Collective Worship. We had a very good first meeting this term where we agreed some of the themes for worship including facing challenges, dilemmas, having courage, persevering, and justice, leading up to Advent and Christmas.

We will be also introducing a Celebration gathering each Friday afternoon, where we join together in worship to celebrate achievements at home or school. We will also reflect upon the previous week and think about the week ahead.

Home School Partnership

Parent Teacher Consultations

Thank you to all who were able to attend the consultations and for the positive feedback some parents have provided to me about the consultations and the information provided.

PTFA General Meeting

Thank you also to those who were able to attend the PTFA Annual General Meeting. It was great to meet more parents and hear about the exciting fundraising plans ahead – please note the dates below. Carla Black has stood down as Co-Chair and I thank her for her time given to the PTFA. The rest of the Committee remain in their posts. If anyone would still like to assist the PTFA as a class representative, please do speak to a PTFA committee member (including Mrs McCloud).

Thank you to those members of the PTFA who organized the very successful film night which was thoroughly enjoyed by the children. It is great to see them enjoying themselves in a different social context and a superb £320 was raised. Thank you for your support.

School Office

Thank you very much for your support for Mrs McCloud in the Office. Increasing number of parents are returning forms and payments to school in book bags, and payments by cheque rather than cash are being made in sealed named envelopes or by ParentMail. We do now have a group of volunteers both in the school office and in school. This support is greatly appreciated and if anyone does wish to volunteer, please see either your child's class teacher, myself or Mrs McCloud. Thank you.

Topic Funds

Thank you for the contributions to date towards topic funds. This is greatly appreciated. If you are able to contribute and have not done so, we request £5 per family per term which can be paid termly or in full for the year.

Last Night of the Proms – Daft as a Brush

Last weekend Violet Donnelly attended Last Night at the Proms organised by Daft as a Brush with Gosforth Voices. She and her mum thoroughly enjoyed the experience. If any children would like to join Gosforth Voices, please contact Mrs McCloud.

Summer Reading Challenge

The following children took part in a Summer Reading Challenge through Newcastle Libraries – Emi Cartmell (Nursery) Daisy Bensley, Zara Cartmell and Alice Steward (Year 2), Susannah Chetcuti (Year 3), Olivia Small and Grace Steward (Year 4). Well done to you all and I will present their certificates in our Celebration tomorrow afternoon.

ParentMail

Thank you to all parents who have joined Parentmail. This is such a useful school communication which saves time, money and our environment. Parents new to school have been given instructions on how to join our school communication system, ParentMail. The free ParentMail app for your phone is very useful to make it easier to see communications and receive alerts rather than these going to your e-mail inbox only. As you know, forms to be returned to school are always sent home in paper copy but if you still receive paper copies of all communications and are able to receive these by ParentMail only, please contact Mrs McCloud. It would be great if we could be as "paperless" as possible in our school communications!

Before School Care/Nursery Provision

Since the last newsletter, several parents have enquired about the possibility of starting a breakfast club, as have parents visiting school for a place in Reception in September 2018. Some parents with younger siblings have also expressed an interest in an extended nursery provision. It would be useful if parents could complete the questionnaire attached regarding these issues so we can explore the viability of future options. Thank you.

WOW Walk to School

A new "WOW Walk to School" scheme to be launched next month (information will be sent out on the first day back to school). I encourage as many of you as possible to join in and reduce the traffic on the roads around school.

NSPCC Assembly

The NSPCC are coming into school to deliver an assembly on 31 October 2017 as part of their "Speak Out. Stay Safe." programme and to introduce a sponsored workout activity which will take place the following week. A letter will be sent home tomorrow about this.

Scholastic Book Fair

We will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair in School in the afternoons of the week commencing 13th November 2017. Please let Mrs McCloud know if you are able to assist in the running of the Book Fair which will involve setting up the books, taking money and recording sales from approximately 2pm until 4pm.

Ofsted Update

Over the last couple of weeks we have been visiting schools, observing mathematics lessons, and conducting book scrutiny as well as receiving Mathematics training. We continue to address the areas for development identified by Ofsted whilst finalizing our post Ofsted Action Plan.

Ofsted identified areas for development:

- Plans to improve the school include precise and ambitious targets to secure improvements in pupils' outcomes, particularly for the most able. Improve pupils' achievement so that pupils routinely reach age-related expectations and increasing proportions, particularly of the most-able, achieve the highest possible standards – we have researched various data tracking systems and have now purchased the Local Authority's Service Level Agreement for data tracking. We are reviewing our Assessment procedures in light of the new tracking system to ensure accuracy. Data will be inputted in the next couple meetings, progress meetings held and targets set.
- Checks on teaching are undertaken with the required urgency to bring about improvements and feedback to teachers focuses on the impact of teachers' actions to maximise learning – as well as lesson observations, planning monitoring and book scrutiny sessions have been held. Visits to various schools have been undertaken by some staff and this will continue next term. We reflect together upon the teaching and learning, and share good practice in order to maximise learning.
- Subject leaders receive the support needed to take a more strategic view of the impact of the actions on improving pupils' outcomes – subject leader roles have now been allocated. We have created a Teaching and Learning Team with Mrs Massey, Mrs Mann and Mrs Burns who will be focussing upon Mathematics and English, and the application of subject skills across the curriculum. Mrs Harrison will continue to be the Science subject leader and share the role of RE and worship lead with myself. Mrs Ainsworth will continue to be the Physical, Health and Wellbeing leader. I will be sharing the SENco role with Mrs Massey.
- Governors fulfil their statutory duty in holding leaders to account – our Chair of Governors, Mrs Sarah Hawkins attended the Local Authority monitoring visit this term and organised a review of governance, as recommended in the Ofsted report, for the beginning of November.
- Improving the quality of teaching, learning and assessment particularly in mathematics – we have accessed whole staff training through a local National Support School and local mathematics hub. We continue to reflect upon the training, and adapt the teaching and learning strategies in school, focussing upon the challenge, problem solving and reasoning.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 20 th October	Year 2 Fire Dance Performance (3pm in Hall) School closes for half term
Monday 30 th October	School closed for teacher training day
Tuesday 31 st October	School re-opens
Monday 13 th November –	Scholastic Book Fair (2-4pm)
Thursday 16 th November	
Thursday 16 th November	Flu Immunisations (Reception to Year 4)
Friday 8 th December	PTFA Christmas Fair (after school)
Tuesday 19 th December	Foundation Stage Nativity – morning Key Stages 1 & 2 Performances – afternoon

Wednesday 20th December Key Stages 1 & 2 Performances – morning
Key Stages 1 & 2 Performances – evening
Thursday 21st December PTFA Christmas Disco (after school)
Friday 22nd December Carol Service at St Nicholas Church (2pm) – children attend and families
welcome to join us
School closes for Christmas holidays

I would like to wish everyone a happy half term holiday and look forward to you returning safely for the Autumn second half term.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D. Henry

Headteacher

Archbishop Runcie C of E First School
Breakfast and Nursery Provision

Several parents and potential parents for September 2018 have enquired about a breakfast club and more flexible nursery hours. In order for the school to explore the sustainability of this, please could you complete the following questions and return in your child's book bag. A paper copy of this will form will be sent home in book bags tomorrow.

Thank you for your time and continued support.

**Please delete*

Breakfast Club

1. I **would/would not* use a breakfast club.
2. The most convenient starting time for breakfast club would be _____.
3. I **would/would not* be able to help establish a breakfast club.
4. Number and age(s) of children who would attend _____

Nursery

5. I would like my child to start nursery in [**January 2018 /April 2018/ September 2018*]
(children are eligible to join nursery in the term which commences after their 3rd birthday).
6. If your child is currently in our nursery or you are interested in a nursery place for your child/children, please rate your choices from (1-5) for nursery sessions or mark "not interested":

5 mornings	
5 afternoons	
2 ½ days Mon – Wed	
2 ½ days Wed – Fri	
Full time	

7. If eligible I **would/would not* like to access 30 hours nursery provision at the school.

Your name (optional) _____

Your child/children in school (optional) _____

Your child/children who may wish to join nursery (optional) _____